

REMARKS

Claims 18 and 19 have been amended to include the subject matter of claims 25 and 49 and to delete the reference to the negative proviso. Claims 25 and 49 will be canceled upon entry of this amendment. No new matter has been added and no new issues have been raised. Applicants respectfully submit that the present claims are allowable over the cited references, or at least put the claims in better condition for appeal.

The amendment to claims 18 and 19 will obviate the written description rejection. Thus, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Regarding the obviousness rejections over Ghani, or Nielsen in view of Ghani and further in view of Haarasilta, applicants respectfully submit that Ghani does not disclose starch-containing, non-fibrous carriers. Thus, applicants respectfully submit that it is not obvious for a skilled artisan to use a non-fibrous solid carrier comprising starch to facilitate extrusion of the dough as described on page 6, line 19 of the present application.

Further, with regard to the last paragraph on page 4 of the Action, the Office appears to apply the incorrect standard. The Office must show that a skilled artisan would be motivated to make a granulate using a non-fibrous carrier. It is not sufficient for the office merely to state that "there is no reason to believe that a granulate lacking fibrous materials cannot be made by extrusion."

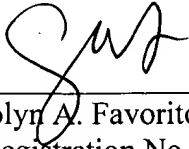
Thus, applicants respectfully submit that the obviousness rejection may be properly withdrawn.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket No. 251502008600. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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